

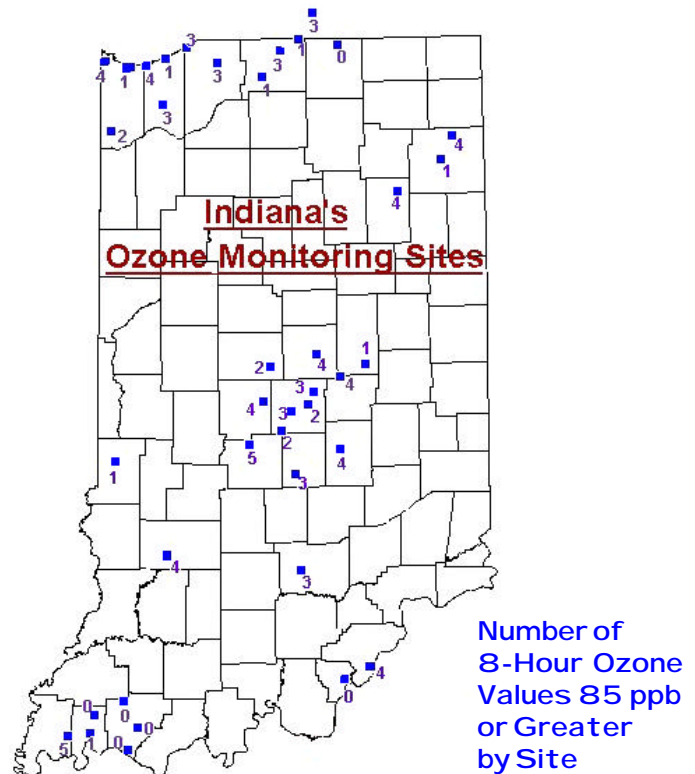
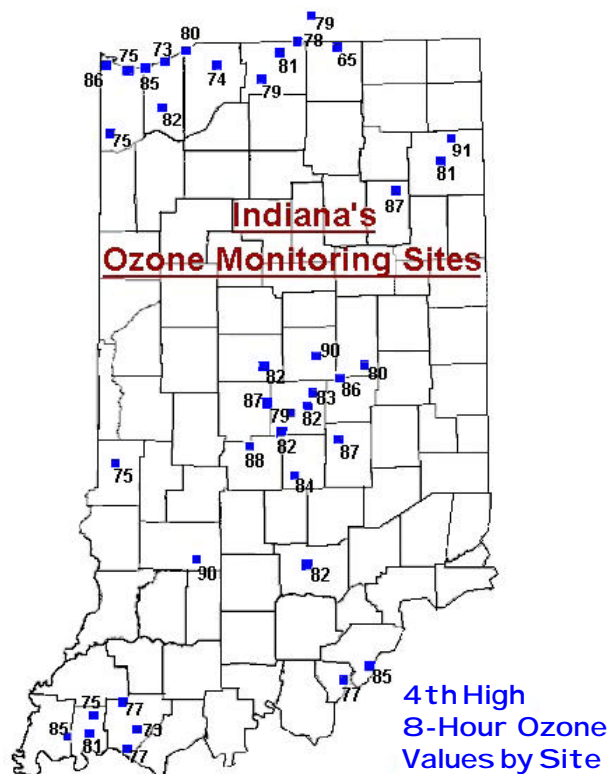
2000 Ozone Season Report



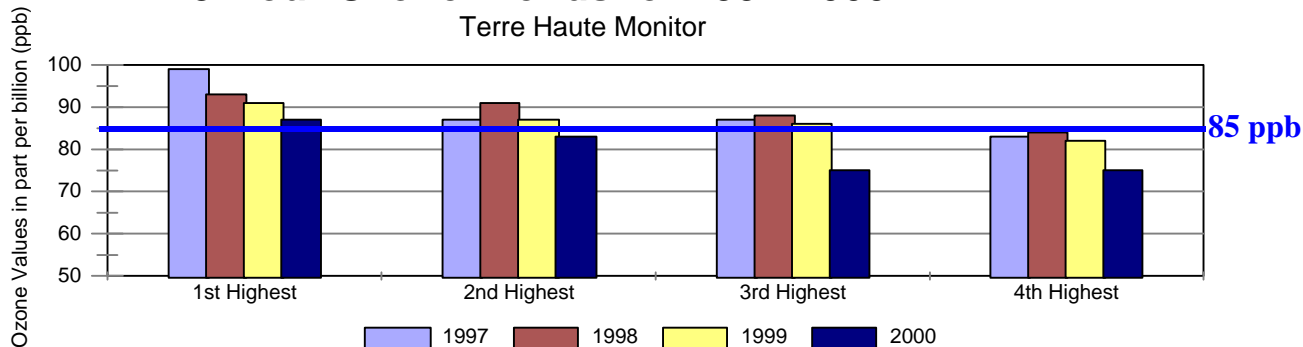
This report provides a summary of ozone levels (smog) throughout Indiana during the 2000 ozone season (May 1 through September 30). Indiana has four counties designated as nonattainment for the one-hour ozone health standard of 125 parts per billion (ppb), meaning 125 parts of ozone in a billion parts of air averaged over one hour. The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 1997 established a new eight-hour standard of 85 ppb to protect the public from longer exposure to ozone. An area exceeds the standard when the three year average of the fourth highest 8-hour readings from the highest site in the area is 85 ppb or greater. Six metropolitan areas of Indiana are at risk of exceeding the new 8-hour health standard, based on the past 3 years of data. Although the implementation of the 8-hour standard has been delayed, IDEM is continually looking for ways to reduce ozone and improve air quality.

IDEM and local air agencies collect data from 38 ozone monitors across Indiana and one in Michigan. Only one monitor recorded a one-hour average over 125 ppb during the 2000 ozone season. The Granger monitor in St. Joseph County recorded a one-hour average of 128 ppb of ozone. The highest 8-hour ozone concentration in the state was 103 ppb, recorded at the Michigan City monitor in LaPorte County. The most days that 8-hour ozone averages were over 85 ppb at a single monitor was five days. These readings occurred at two monitors, one in Morgan County and one in Posey County. Vigo County's Terre Haute monitor recorded ozone over 85 ppb one day in 2000 with a reading of 87 ppb. The fourth highest reading at Terre Haut's monitor was 75 ppb.

The maps below show where IDEM and local air agencies placed ozone monitors for the 2000 ozone season. The map on the left shows the fourth highest 8-hour ozone level at each monitor. The map on the right contains the number of days this year that ozone values were greater than 85 ppb at each monitor.



8-Hour Ozone Trends for 1997-2000



Vigo County 2000 Ozone Values 4th Highest 8-Hour Reading



The chart above illustrates the four highest 8-hour ozone values recorded at the Terre Haute monitor from 1997-2000. The fourth highest concentrations from the highest site in an area are the values used for determining if an area is in attainment of the ozone health standard. EPA has indicated that nonattainment designations will likely be based on 1998-2000 data. For Vigo County, the fourth highest readings for 1998-2000 are 84, 82 and 75 ppb. The average is 80 ppb, which will not put them at risk of being classified as nonattainment by EPA. Nonattainment areas may be required to reduce pollution from cars, factories, fuels, power plants and consumer products. IDEM, working with local communities, would be required to develop a plan to bring nonattainment areas into compliance with the ozone health standard.

What Can You Do?

1. Get active in ozone planning for your community. Contact the Vigo County Air Pollution Control District's Ozone Awareness Program to receive local information about taking a proactive approach to reduce ozone and improve air quality. Call (812) 462-3433 for more information on how to get involved.

2. Get in the know about ozone levels. During ozone season, listen or watch for Ozone Action Day information on your local radio and TV stations. You can even get daily ozone readings, forecasts, and monitor data from Indiana's Smog Watch web site. Check out the Smog Watch Web site at <http://www.state.in.us/idem/oam/smog> or call our toll-free Smog Watch Forecast Line at (800) 631-2871 from May through September.

3. Reduce your impact. Ride share; fill up the car or mow your lawn after dusk; and go inside the bank or restaurant instead of using the drive-thru. By making these efforts you can help reduce your impact on high ozone days. For more information on Indiana's ground-level ozone monitoring or voluntary reductions programs, contact OAQ Outreach at (800) 451-6027.

